

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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-----024692 151718Z /42-40
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4754
INFO USIA WASHDC

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EUR/WE FOR AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PDIP PO US
SUBJECT: ARRIVAL STATEMENT, PRESS QUESTIONS

REF: STATE 32306

1. PROPOSE THAT YOU GIVE ARRIVAL STATEMENT, BUT DECLINE QUESTIONS ON GROUNDS THAT IT IS INOPPORTUNE TO DO SO BEFORE PRESENTING CREDENTIALS. AMBASSADORS DO NOT NORMALLY ANSWER PRESS QUERIES UPON ARRIVAL. WHEN WE HAVE YOUR COMMENTS, EMBASSY WILL TRANSLATE AND CABLE TO YOU PORTUGUESE VERSION OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT AS WELL AS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

2. SUGGESTED ARRIVAL STATEMENT:
(BEGIN TEXT) GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON. I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE, AND MY WIFE, MY FAMILY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO LIVING IN PORTUGAL. I HAVE STUDIED YOUR HISTORY AND FOLLOWED RECENT EVENTS FROM A DISTANCE. I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CLOSER NOW.

MY COUNTRY HAS SOUGHT SINCE 1974 TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. THE UNITED STATES HAS ASSISTED THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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PROGRAMS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT DEMOCRACY GAVE MY OWN COUNTRY A WORKABLE FRAMEWORK FOR FREEDOM, FOR ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT, FOR A SOCIALLY RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT. HENCE WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT PORTUGAL IS SEEKING

TO MAKE ITS OWN DEMOCRACY WORK TO THE ADVANTAGE OF ALL
PORTUGUESE. AT THE HEART OF UNITED STATES POLICY IS
A DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO PORTUGAL AT THIS SPECIAL
TIME IN HISTORY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO PRESENTING MY CREDENTIALS TO
PRESIDENT EANES. I WILL BE EAGER AFTERWARD
TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT
TO SEE WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO FURTHER THE EXCELLENT
RELATIONS THAT ALREADY EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
MY FAMILY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW PORTUGAL
AND THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
(END TEXT)

3. FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WOULD
BE FOR USE WITH JOURNALISTS ON OCCASIONS AFTER CREDENTIALS
PRESENTATION:

4. Q. YOU TOLD THE U.S. SENATE THAT YOU VIEWED THE
PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AS "NO THREAT AT PRESENT."
ON WHAT GROUNDS DID YOU DISCUSS A POLITICAL PARTY OF
PORTUGAL? IS THAT NOT INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTERNAL
AFFAIRS?

A. ALL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES IN THE UNITED STATES,
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INCLUDING AMBASSADORS, MUST TESTIFY IN AN OPEN HEARING
AND UNDER OATH, IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING SENATE
CONFIRMATION OF THEIR APPOINTMENT. DURING SUCH A
HEARING, ONE MUST ANSWER THE SENATORS' QUESTIONS TRUTH-
FULLY AND TO THE BEST OF ONE'S ABILITY. HENCE THE ORIGIN
OF THE QUOTATION YOU CITE. IT WAS NOT INTENDED AS
INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS.

5. Q. ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE YOUR PREDECESSOR'S
POLICY OF FAVORING SOARES AND THE SOCIALISTS?

A. AMBASSADORS ARE ACCREDITED TO GOVERNMENTS, NOT TO
PARTIES. THIS WAS MY PREDECESSOR'S APPROACH AND IT WILL
BE MINE AS WELL.

6. Q. ARE YOU A CIA AGENT?

A. I AM A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER. I HAVE
NEVER BEEN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CIA.

7. Q. AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI SAID THE SAME, BUT HE ENDED
UP AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THAT SPY AGENCY. THE CONNECTION

SEEMS QUITE CLEAR, DOESN'T IT?

A. MY GOVERNMENT MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WAS CHOSEN AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF HIS MANAGEMENT SKILLS.

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8. Q. BUT HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD WORKED WITH THE CIA IN LISBON, AND IT WAS REPORTED FROM HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS THAT HE TALKED ABOUT HAVING "IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE REPORTING FROM LISBON." DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPERVISION OF THE CIA IN LISBON? WILL YOU TOO "IMPROVE REPORTING?"

A. I LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE CONTINUATION OF EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN MY COUNTRY AND PORTUGAL. THAT IS THE ROLE OF AN AMBASSADOR.

9. Q. YOUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN IN LATIN AMERICA. WE ARE BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO BEING TREATED LIKE A "BANANA REPUBLIC" WITH ALL OF THE AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR WHAT YOU LIKE TO TERM PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY?

A. SINCE THE APRIL REVOLUTION, THE UNITED STATES'S PRINCIPAL ROLE HAS BEEN TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CHOSEN BY THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. WE HAVE GIVEN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AREAS AS SANITATION AND LOW-COST HOUSING. WE HAVE WORKED WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES TO HELP PORTUGAL OVERCOME SERIOUS BALANCE-

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OF-PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES. WE HAVE SHOWN THAT WE ACCEPT AND BELIEVE IN THE COMMON SENSE OF ALL THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE--WHO THEMSELVES HAVE CONFIRMED AT THE POLLS FOUR TIMES THEIR DECISION TO RUN THEIR OWN COUNTRY DEMOCRATICALLY, AND TO CREATE NEW INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIVE TO THE MAJORITY.

10. Q. DO YOU FORESEE FURTHER MAJOR U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGAL?

A. THE TOTAL FOR PAST, CURRENT AND PROJECTED AMERICAN GRANTS, LOANS, AND GUARANTY PROGRAMS IS APPROXIMATELY \$900,000,000. THIS TOTAL INCLUDES GRANTS, LOANS AND GUARANTIES UNDER A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, ADMINISTERED BY VARIOUS AGENCIES OF MY GOVERNMENT. SOME OF OUR DEVELOPMENT-ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WERE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO HELP PORTUGAL DURING THE FIRST SEVERAL YEARS AFTER APRIL 25. OTHERS ARE ONGOING, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP PORTUGAL MEET SPECIFIC NEEDS--SUCH AS FOOD IMPORTS--FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE LIKEWISE SEE U.S. SUPPORT TO PORTUGAL CONTINUING NOT ONLY BILATERALLY BUT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

11. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE IMF LOAN?

A. APART FROM THE USEFULNESS IN THE SUM ITSELF, IMF LENDING TO PORTUGAL SIGNALS TO THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL LENDING COMMUNITY THAT THIS IS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS UNDERTAKEN RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC/ FINANCIAL POLICIES. WITH THIS "GREEN LIGHT," MOST ECONOMIC EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT PORTUGAL WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CREDITS IT NEEDS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES DURING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS.

12. Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT?

A. BOTH PORTUGAL AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED A DESIRE TO MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT. REVIEWING OUR AGREEMENT IS ONE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY GOALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WE WELCOME THIS GOAL.

13. Q. ISN'T LAJES OF CRUCIAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND NATO?

A. OF COURSE THE BASE HAS BEEN USEFUL. "CRUCIAL" IS A RELATIVE TERM WHEN YOU ARE DISCUSSING MILITARY CAPABILITIES WHERE TECHNOLOGY IS ALWAYS PROVIDING NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR MEETING DEFENSE NEEDS.

14. Q. THE AZORES BASE WAS USED IN THE PAST, IN 1973, AS A TRANSIT POINT FOR ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. WOULD THE U.S. ATTEMPT TO USE THE AZORES FACILITIES IN THE SAME WAY IF THERE WERE ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST CRISIS?

A. I PREFER NOT TO ADDRESS HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS. I WOULD REFER YOU TO STATEMENTS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ON THE UNDIMINISHED USE OF LAJES ON THE SAME BASIS AS IN THE PAST.

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15. Q. THE RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT SUBMITTED TO YOUR CONGRESS GAVE PORTUGAL AN EXCELLENT REPORT. HOW DOES THIS SQUARE WITH THE THOUSANDS OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THEIR PROPERTY ARBITRARILY SINCE 1974?

A. AS STATED IN THE REPORT TO CONGRESS, THE PORTUGUESE RECORD IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT EANES AND PRIME MINISTER SOARES IS EXEMPLARY. I STAND BY THAT REPORT.

16. RE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, FORMAL REMARKS ARE NOT MADE DURING THE PRESENTATION. IT IS CUSTOMARY, HOWEVER, FOR NEW AMBASSADORS TO HAVE A BRIEF, PERSONAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY. DRESS IS DARK BUSINESS SUIT.
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